

REMARKS

The specification at page 1 has been amended to correct grammatical errors. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

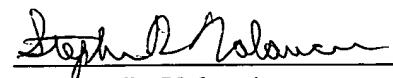
Claims 16-20, 22-24 and 30-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,672,811 to Kato '811 in view of U.S. Patent 5,676,811 to Makino et al.

Claims 16-20, 22-24 and 30-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '845 or U.S. Patent 6,036,841 to Kato '841 in view of Makino et al.

Applicants are presently preparing a response to the outstanding rejection, and expect to file the response soon. A request for Suspension of Action (for three (3) months), RCE and Petition for Extension of Time (for three (3) months) are concurrently filed herewith.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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